



EUROPEAN COMMISSION



**EUROPEAN UNION
LATIN AMERICA
CARIBBEAN**

ADVANCING TOGETHER

JUNE 1999



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Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities, 1999

ISBN 92-828-7014-6

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Printed in Belgium

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Introduction

The Amsterdam European Council of June 1997 approved the organisation of a summit of Heads of State or Government of the European Union, Latin American and Caribbean countries following a Franco-Spanish initiative. On 22 December of the same year, a Franco-Spanish memorandum set out the main topics to be discussed at the summit, namely political dialogue, economic and commercial issues, and the educational, cultural and human field. The summit will be held in Rio de Janeiro on 28 and 29 June 1999. It will greatly enhance the dialogue between Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and bring a new dimension to the European Union's external relations.

This new approach to the Latin American subcontinent by the European Union was already mapped out in the 'Basic document on the relations of the European Union with Latin America and the Caribbean' approved by the Council on 31 October 1994 under the impetus of the German Presidency. In it, the European Union proposed cooperating with these regions with a view to maintaining peace and ensuring the universal respect of human rights, balanced economic exchanges, sustainable development and the fight against poverty and environmental pollution, as well as strengthening scientific and cultural links.

Continued EU interest in the region was expressed at successive European Councils. The priorities for relations between the European Union and Latin America were set out in the document 'The European Union and Latin America: the present situation and prospects for closer partnership 1996–2000' ⁽¹⁾ approved by the Madrid European Council of December 1995. While these guidelines remain relevant, it is important as the new millennium approaches to give fresh impetus to discussions on the future of relations between the European Union and the Latin American subcontinent, taking account of the latter's development in recent years. Similarly, the European Union's continued interest in the Caribbean is reflected by the negotiating brief given by the Council and the Commission with a view to the negotiations for the renewal of the Lomé Convention.

A communication from the Commission to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee of March 1999 entitled 'On a new European Union–Latin America partnership on the eve of the 21st century' proposes discussion guidelines on the future of relations between the EU and Latin America which should stimulate the preparatory debates for the summit ⁽²⁾.

⁽¹⁾ COM(95) 495 final.

⁽²⁾ COM(1999) 105.

The staging of this summit reflects the EU's close interest in the subcontinent. The two regions share numerous interests and Europe has comparative advantages appreciated in the area. In Latin America, the European Union is the second-largest investor, the second-largest extra-regional trading partner, and the main donor of bilateral official development aid (Community and Member States).

This document gives an overview of the European Union's relations with the Latin American subcontinent.

General

The European Union has 374 million inhabitants and a gross domestic product (GDP) of USD 7 505 000 million.

Latin America and the Caribbean had approximately 474 million inhabitants in 1997 and a GDP of USD 1 435 992 million.

According to the 1998–99 report by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) on economic and social progress in Latin America, the main economic indicators for Latin America and the Caribbean as a whole are:

- GDP per capita/average: USD 3 025 (1997);
- balance of payments: – USD 63 427.8 million (1997);
- trade balance: – USD 16 969.7 million (1997);
- foreign debt: USD 617 339.7 million (1996).

The annual average growth rate of GDP in this region from 1990 to 1997 was 3.1 % (1.6 % from 1980 to 1990 and 6 % from 1970 to 1980).

In 1996, Latin America and the Caribbean received inflows of foreign direct investment (FDI) totalling USD 25 900 million, i.e. 23.7 % of the FDI in developing countries ⁽³⁾.

⁽³⁾ IRELA (Instituto de Relaciones Europeo-Latinoamericanas), *La Unión Europea y el Grupo de Río: la agenda birregional*. Documento preparado para la VIII Reunión Ministerial Institucionalizada entre la Unión Europea y el Grupo de Río, Panamá, February 1998, p. 73.

1. Relations between the European Union and Latin America

The following areas were identified as priorities ⁽⁴⁾ in helping Latin America ⁽⁵⁾ meet the challenges facing it and in strengthening political and economic partnership and cooperation with the area:

- institutional support and consolidation of the democratic process;
- combating poverty and social exclusion;
- supporting economic reforms and improving international competitiveness.

These priorities were to be accompanied by three key horizontal themes: support for cooperation and regional integration, education and training, and the management of North–South interdependence.

The strengthening of relations between the European Union and Latin America bears witness to the effectiveness of these strategies, in particular the differentiated approach reflecting the specific nature and needs of each region. They take account of the disparate nature of the subcontinent and are conducted on a partnership basis. Political relations have deepened (through formally instituted dialogues), trade has grown, European investments have increased and Community cooperation with Latin America has been maintained at an average of nearly ECU 500 million in commitments since 1995.

The summit should reaffirm the importance of this regional, specific approach and achieve further progress.

1.1. Political relations

Under its common foreign and security policy (CFSP), the European Union follows closely the development of the political situation in the Latin American and Caribbean region. It has adopted a series of common positions on highly sensitive issues: Cuba, the pacification process in Guatemala, elections in various countries, etc. Similarly, concerted positions with the 15 Member States are the focus of dialogue with various non-member countries, including the United States of America (transatlantic dialogue).

⁽⁴⁾ Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament, 'The European Union and Latin America: the present situation and prospects for closer partnership 1996-2000', COM(95) 495 final, Brussels, 23 October 1995.

⁽⁵⁾ Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

1.1.1. Interparliamentary political dialogue

This is the oldest dialogue, having been initiated in 1974, and takes the form of biennial conferences between the European Parliament and the Latin American Parliament. It has continued uninterrupted in spite of authoritarian regimes and the political instability of the 1970s and 1980s. Relations have also existed between the European Parliament and the Andean Parliament, with the Mercosur Parliamentary Committee and since 1991 with the Central American Parliament. These dialogues strengthen, in particular, the parliamentary dimension of Latin American integration and bring the support of Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) for consolidation of the rule of law on the subcontinent. The EU-Latin America interparliamentary conference held in Brussels from 16 to 18 March 1999 gave particular consideration to the subject of education.

1.1.2. Formal political dialogues and dialogues currently being instituted

RIO GROUP

The Rome declaration of 20 December 1990, signed by the ministers of the Rio Group countries and their European Union counterparts, established political dialogue between the two entities in the form of annual meetings at ministerial level. Although it has no legal personality, the Rio Group is the main forum for dialogue between the European Union and Latin America. The fourth institutionalised ministerial meeting held in São Paulo in April 1994 marked a step forward in the bi-regional dialogue with the adoption of a declaration on the partnership which now characterises relations between the two regions.

The seventh meeting (Noordwijk, April 1997) highlighted the need to strengthen social and environmental cooperation.

The eighth meeting (Panama, February 1998) focused on education, the development of human resources and the fight against narcotic drugs trafficking on the basis of the co-responsibility principle.

Other themes of the dialogue concern the consolidation of democracy, regional integration, economic and trade relations and cooperation. Security issues are also a focus of the dialogue between the European Union and the Rio Group. Three meetings have already taken place since 1995 at Punta del Este in October 1995, Quito in November 1996 and Santa Cruz de la Sierra in Bolivia in December 1997.

CENTRAL AMERICA

Established in San José in 1984 to give formal status to Community support for the search for a negotiated solution to the Central American conflicts, the San José dialogue has played a major role in the process of pacification and democratisation of the region, politically supporting the efforts of the Contadora Group and the Esquipulas peace process. At the same time, substantial human-

itarian aid has been provided to the people affected. The dialogue was renewed at the 12th ministerial conference of the San José Group held in Florence on 21 March 1996, during which new priorities were established for Community cooperation in the region: support for the strengthening and consolidation of the rule of law, modernisation of public services, social policies, the Central American integration process and its integration into the world economy. The dialogue is becoming biennial at ministerial level, with meetings being held in intermediate years with the troika of the European Union.

The European Union supports the process of restructuring the Central American integration system and the gradual progress of the isthmus towards a Central American union.

ANDEAN COMMUNITY

Under the joint declaration of the European Union and the Andean Community signed on 30 June 1996 in Rome, political dialogue has acquired an institutional nature and is developing around bi-regional and international themes of mutual interest.

One of the important subjects in the dialogue between the European Union and the Andean Community is the fight against drugs. The Andean Community countries (like those of Central America) benefit from the 'Andean' system of generalised preferences (the GSP) to assist them in this.

The European Union supports the institutional reform initiated in 1996 at the summit of Andean presidents in Trujillo with the constitution of the Andean integration system.

The first Euro-Andean Forum was held in London in May 1998 to present the new institutional face of the Andean Community and to encourage contacts between companies. The Euro-Andean Entrepreneurial Council was set up to facilitate the latter.

MERCOSUR

The interregional framework cooperation agreement, signed with Mercosur (Southern Cone Common Market) on 15 December 1995, the first agreement between two customs unions, covers the fields of trade, economy and cooperation with a view to integration, as well as other fields of common interest. This framework agreement, the ultimate aim of which is an interregional association of a political and economic nature, establishes a political dialogue with the European Union at presidential, ministerial and technical levels (political declaration annexed to the agreement).

For some time now, Chile and Bolivia have also been taking part as associate members of Mercosur in the political dialogue between it and the European Union.

MEXICO

The strengthening of relations between the European Union and Mexico led to the signature on 8 December 1997 of an economic partnership, political coordination and cooperation agreement and an interim agreement on trade and trade-related matters.

The last two agreements, like those concluded with Mercosur and Chile, open prospects for the liberalisation of trade between the European Union and Latin America and the establishment of an ongoing political dialogue. These agreements are accompanied by a joint declaration of the European Union and Mexico on political dialogue and a joint declaration on dialogue at parliamentary level.

CHILE

A political dialogue has been initiated with Chile in line with the joint declaration on political dialogue between the European Union and Chile of 18 December 1995, which provides for periodic meetings at different levels.

The ultimate aim of the framework agreement signed on 21 June 1996 (which replaces the 1991 agreement) is to prepare a political and economic association between the European Union and its Member States and the Republic of Chile.

1.1.3. Dialogue on the fight against drugs

Since 1995, the European Union has been conducting a special dialogue with the Member States of the Andean Community on the fight against drug production and trafficking. In line with the guidelines set by the Dublin European Council of 1996, a new forum for dialogue on this theme, extended to the entire Latin American and Caribbean region, was set up in 1998. Finally, agreements on the control of chemical precursors were concluded with the Member States of the Andean Community, Mexico and Chile. The Commission obtained a mandate from the Council to negotiate and conclude similar agreements with all the Member States of the Organisation of American States.

1.1.4. EU relations with Latin American regional institutions

The European Community holds permanent observer status with the Organisation of American States (OAS), the Latin American Economic System (LAES), and the Latin American Integration Association (LAIA).

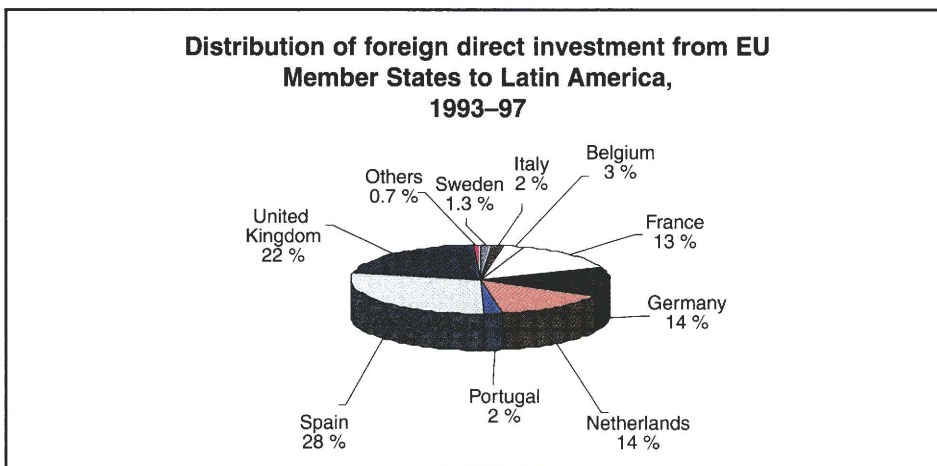
1.2. Economic and commercial relations

1.2.1. Investment

The European Union is the second-largest investor in Latin America, after the United States and well before Japan. Europeans, in particular, played a considerable role in the privatisation of Latin American public sector companies and also in debt-conversion programmes, owing to the strong presence of European banks on the subcontinent. Latin America and the Caribbean account for 30 % of total investments to developing countries ⁽⁶⁾. Between 1995 and 1997, total capital flow to Latin America increased from USD 26 000 million to almost USD 73 000 million ⁽⁷⁾. There has been a strong increase in investments from 1994.

In 1996, European foreign direct investment in Latin America increased by 28 % compared with 1995, totalling USD 7 758 million. In 1997, it increased by 120 % compared with 1996. The FDI has continued to increase in recent years, reflecting operators' confidence in this emerging region.

Most European investment is in Mercosur (especially in Brazil and Argentina), then Mexico, Colombia and Venezuela.



⁽⁶⁾ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad), 'World investment report 1997'.

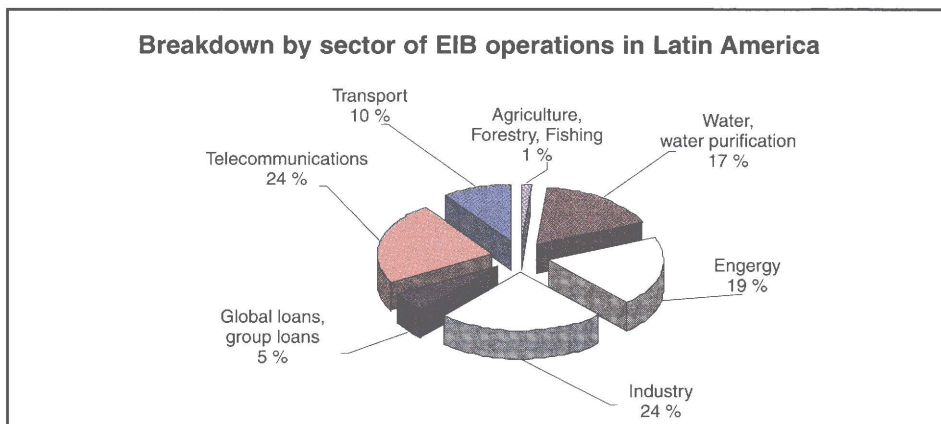
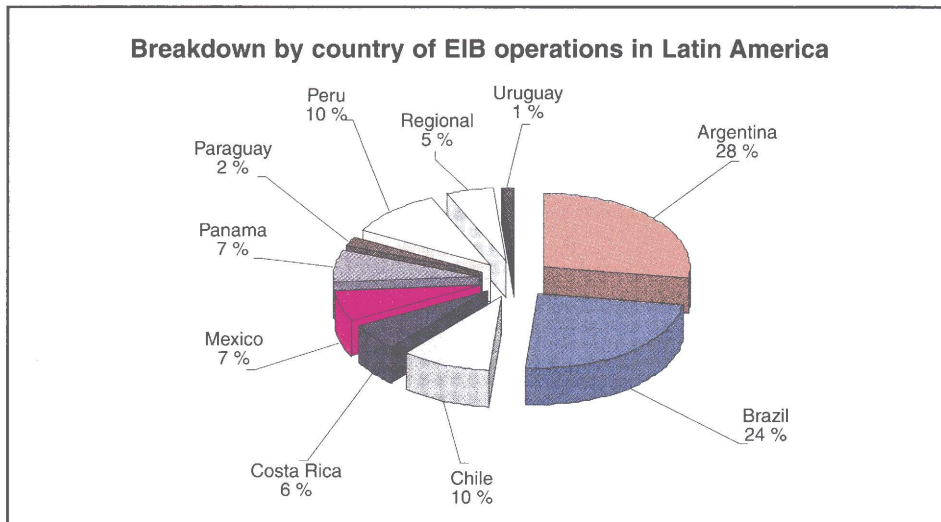
⁽⁷⁾ IRELA, *La Unión Europea y el Grupo de Río: la agenda birregional*, op. cit., p. 39.

1.2.2. The European Investment Bank

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has been present in Latin America since 1993 and has signed framework agreements with 15 countries in the region. A partner of the European Commission, the EIB has become one of the principal European players on the subcontinent where, following the decision of the Council of the European Communities of 19 May 1992 calling on the Bank to take action in those countries of Latin America and Asia that had concluded cooperation agreements with the Community, the Bank contributes to the financing of investment projects that have joint interest for the countries of the EU and Latin America.

Total loans granted by the EIB to Latin America currently amount to EUR 746 330 000 and concern the following sectors: industry, telecommunications, energy, water and sanitation, transport and forestry (situation at 4 May 1999).

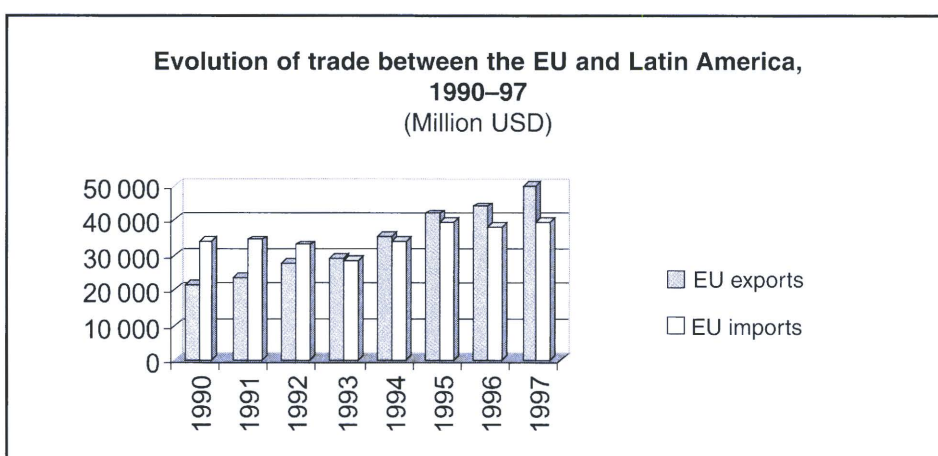
The EIB's current mandate for the countries of Asia and Latin America, which has a ceiling of EUR 900 million, extends from 1997 to the end of January 2000. Post-1999 prospects suggest an increase in the current ceiling, allowing a comparable level of loans to be maintained in constant terms.



1.2.3. Commercial relations between the European Union and Latin America

EU imports from Latin America in 1997 came to USD 38 065 million and its exports to the region were worth USD 52 392 million ⁽⁸⁾.

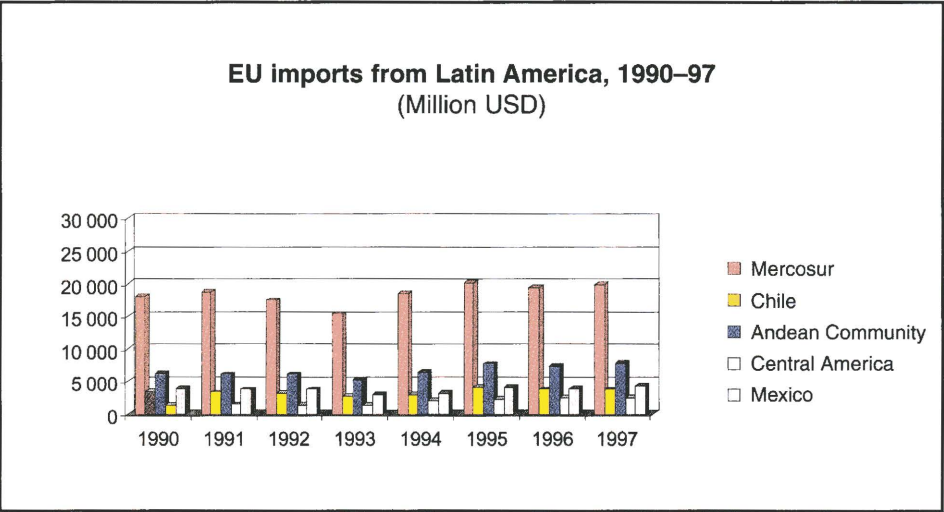
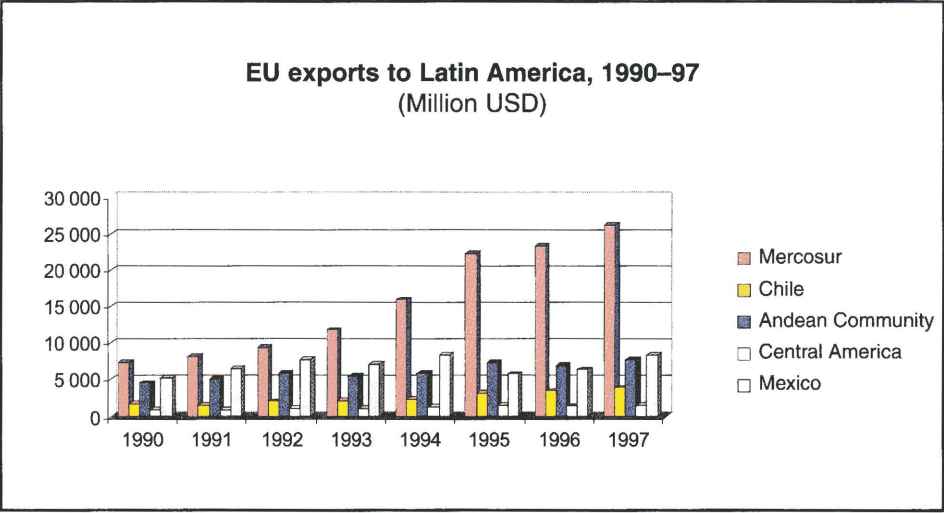
The European Union is the second-largest extra-regional trading partner for Latin America and the first for Mercosur. EU exports to Latin America have doubled in 10 years, but the structure of trade between the two regions remains traditional: EU imports mainly constitute raw materials and European exports are predominantly manufacturing products.



The trade structure of the Latin American subcontinent is marked by the rise in power of strong regional groups and by the aim of a vast free-trade area in the Americas for 2005 under the impetus of the United States. The Member States of the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), whose members include Mexico and Chile, will, in turn, establish a free-trade area in 2010. In 1999, the year of the European Union–Latin America/Caribbean Summit, negotiations will commence for the liberalisation of agricultural trade within the framework of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The prospect of a new stage in trade relations between the European Union and Latin America is being explored, with the possibility of launching new negotiations in view of the liberalisation of mutual exchanges.

⁽⁸⁾ IRELA figures based on International Monetary Fund statistics.



1.2.4. Generalised system of preferences

To encourage access to the European market by Latin American exports, especially those of less developed countries, the European Union has granted Latin America preferential conditions of access for industrial and agricultural products under the generalised system of preferences (GSP). This has been accompanied by special schemes for the Andean countries since 1990 and for Central America (for agricultural products) since 1992 to encourage them in their fight against drugs. In December 1998, this ‘drug’ GSP was extended to Central American industrial products. However, this unilateral instrument of the European Community, renewed for three years (until 31 December 2001), is not permanent in nature and periodic decisions on extending it, possibly accompanied by amendments, are made by the bodies of the EC.

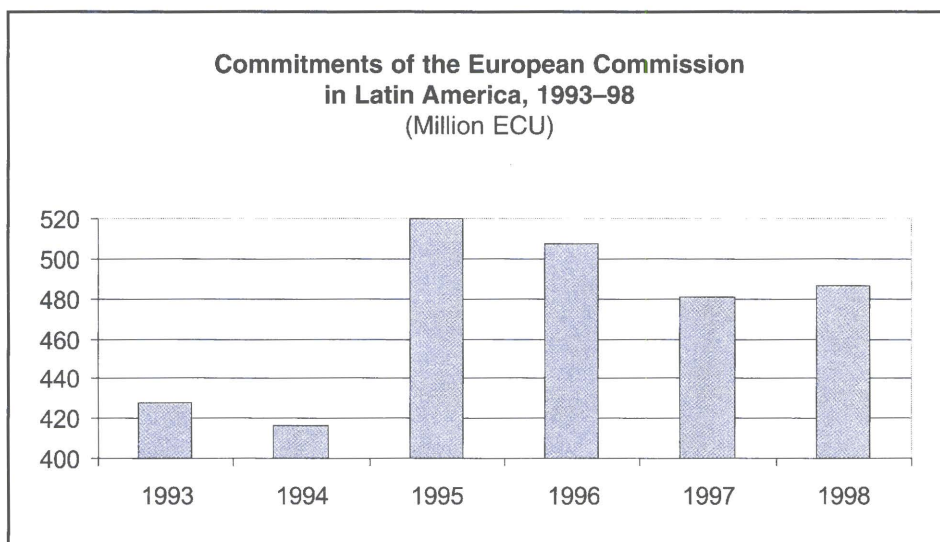
1.3. Community cooperation with Latin America

Agreements covering all the regional countries or groupings (except Cuba) govern cooperation between the Community and Latin America. The relevant joint committees and subcommittees monitor these agreements by means of periodic meetings.

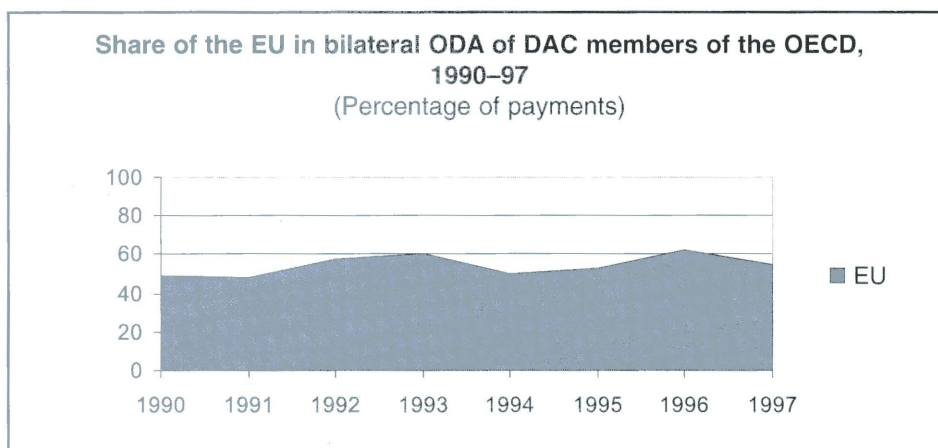
The first Community agreements with Latin America date from the 1960s and 1970s (first generation). Community cooperation with Latin America subsequently developed and gave rise to the so-called second-generation agreements, characterised by the inclusion of economic cooperation based on mutual interest. Finally, the third generation (in the 1990s) represented a qualitative leap forward with the appearance of a 'democratic clause', which provides for cooperation based on respect for democratic principles and human rights. This same generation of agreements opened new prospects in the fields of economic, industrial, scientific and technical cooperation as well as cooperation on the environment and drugs control. The 1990s also mark the development of decentralised cooperation, whereby new agents of civil society can become involved in the implementation of Community projects.

1.3.1. Funds made available by the European Commission

European Commission commitments to Latin America have totalled an average of almost ECU 500 million a year in recent years, entirely in the form of non-repayable grants.



The European Union (Community and Member States) is the largest donor of bilateral official development assistance (ODA) to Latin America. In 1997, this aid accounted for 55 % of total ODA received by Latin America from the countries of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). For the period 1993–97, it was 56 % ^(*).



1.3.2. Cooperation themes and partners

There are three key areas of Community action.

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Most Community aid to Latin America has traditionally been channelled as development cooperation, with very different issues being tackled such as combating poverty and social exclusion, strengthening the rule of law and democracy, protecting the environment and natural habitats, and combating drug trafficking and production. Projects in these fields geared towards specific local situations have been carried out by public authorities and operators from the authorities representative of civil society.

ECONOMIC COOPERATION

The initiatives implemented have had two fundamental aims: support for regional integration and aid for the competitive integration of Latin American products and companies on international and especially European markets. The principle underlying these initiatives was the mutual interest of the European and Latin American partners. Measures involved the transfer of know-how and institutional strengthening of the structures of regional groupings, initiatives for the development of certain sectors or products, technology transfer and the training of human capital. In addition to the institutional partners, the implementation of these initiatives involved collaboration with businesses.

^(*) Percentages calculated from OECD data published in its annual report 'Geographical distribution of financial flows to aid recipients', DAC. Multilateral aid (a substantial part of whose funds comes from the European Union) is not included in these statistics (which concern payments to 20 Latin American countries including Haiti and the Dominican Republic).

A number of decentralised programmes of regional scope at Latin American level form a distinct strand of Community cooperation. They involve a series of actions that not only have a specific aim but are also geared towards certain well-defined categories of operators, as follows:

- AL-Invest and ECIP aim to increase mutual awareness among the bi-regional partners by establishing contact between businesses in the private sector, and eventually to boost trade and create joint ventures if possible;
- ALFA is a programme of interuniversity exchanges of students and research workers;
- URB-AL aims to encourage the pooling of experience among cities, regions and other administrative entities on such subjects as drugs, the conservation of historical and urban settings, social policies, the environment, the administration, etc.;
- ALURE aims to facilitate the rapprochement of operators in the field of energy.

HUMANITARIAN AID

The European Community took action to assist uprooted people and victims of natural disasters and to provide aid in critical economic situations or food shortages. Over and above action in response to emergencies, which are mainly the preserve of ECHO (European Community Humanitarian Office), multiannual measures of a structural nature were taken for the reintegration of displaced people and food security. Particular mention should be made of support for the initiatives proposed by European non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and implemented with the counterpart Latin American institutions: this is an extremely broad and differentiated area of action, representing a significant proportion of the European Community's overall budget. Most of these projects have a predominantly social aim.

The following table shows the European Commission's commitments for Latin America (18 countries) in the last three years according to the different budget headings.

European Commission commitments to Latin America, 1996–98

(ECU)

Budget headings	1996	1997	1998
Financial and technical cooperation	199 845 000	190 178 081	191 000 132
Economic cooperation	63 000 000	63 945 484	49 848 873
Aid for uprooted people in Latin American developing countries	22 000 000	21 160 000	15 290 000
Democratisation and human rights	13 980 000	12 620 500	10 800 000
SME Cuba	50 000	474 300	
Role of women in development	685 539	225 000	
Environment in the developing countries	3 568 613	2 893 515	3 412 342
Tropical forests	30 547 711	23 355 273	20 948 299
North — South cooperation against drugs and drug addiction	3 317 616	2 050 115	80 000
Aid for demographic policies	2 100 000	2 200 000	1 200 000
Rehabilitation	10 655 000	10 440 000	
Economic and commercial cooperation agreements with non-member countries	4 034 637		
ECIP—Promotion of Community investment in developing countries	14 152 908	12 087 440	9 179 319
Food aid in cereals and rice	54 074 770	43 167 396	70 269 642
NGOs	47 834 041	42 650 452	47 141 639
Training and promotion of awareness on development issues	733 094	255 659	116 397
Health programmes and AIDS control in the developing countries	3 159 729	2 569 700	2 249 654
Decentralised cooperation in the developing countries	1 919 711	753 005	1 003 135
Technologies for more efficient energy production	1 295 505	703 506	530 100
Cooperation with non-member countries and international organisations	7 060 875	11 625 700	8 321 700
Synergy	1 165 472	923 019	794 840
Institute for European–Latin American Relations	1 900 000	1 900 000	1 900 000
Latin American Centre for Relations with Europe	250 000	250 000	200 000
Emergency aid — ECHO	18 759 330	27 108 769	46 020 000
Aid for refugees and displaced persons — ECHO		5 500 000	3 000 000
Disaster prevention and humanitarian aid — ECHO	958 500	1 504 000	3 033 500
Total	507 048 051	480 540 914	486 339 572

Source: DG I/B — European Commission.

2. Relations between the European Union and the Caribbean

Relations between the European Union and the Caribbean are based on the Lomé Convention and on the same principles as relations with Latin America. Fifteen independent countries in the Caribbean region are signatories to the fourth Lomé Convention ⁽¹⁰⁾.

Three Member States of the European Union — the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and France — have constitutional links: the UK and the Netherlands with overseas countries and territories ⁽¹¹⁾, and France with overseas departments (DOM) ⁽¹²⁾. The total population of the ACP States and regions of the Caribbean is approximately 22 million on a total surface area of 599 276 km².

The successive Lomé Conventions have enabled these countries to benefit from a standard framework of reference for political dialogue, trade and development cooperation. This particularly favourable framework includes joint institutions with the European Union and the representative regional bodies, which has facilitated dialogue on policies and the specific needs of the region. Negotiations for the replacement of the fourth Lomé Convention which will link the ACP countries with the European Union from the year 2000 started in September 1998.

2.1. Political relations

Political dialogue is mainly via the joint institutions provided for by the Lomé Convention, in particular the Council of Ministers and the Joint Assembly, which includes the Members of Parliament of the signatory States. At regional level, a specific dialogue with the Caribbean region was set up through the Caribbean Community (Caricom) and its cooperation and dialogue body, Cariforum. Caricom, established in 1973, aims to promote economic integration, coordinate foreign policy and provide joint services in such fields as navigation, health, education and women's issues. Interministerial meetings between the European Union and the countries of the Caribbean, within Cariforum, are held each year. Despite the existence of economic, commercial and political differences inevitable in so disparate a region, the broad objectives of Caricom and the large number of its members make this organisation a major catalyst for regional integration. New integration initiatives in the region have led to the creation of the Association of Caribbean States, which includes all the countries bordering the Caribbean sea.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Lucia, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

⁽¹¹⁾ Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Montserrat, Turks and Caicos Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Aruba.

⁽¹²⁾ Guadeloupe, Martinique and French Guyana.

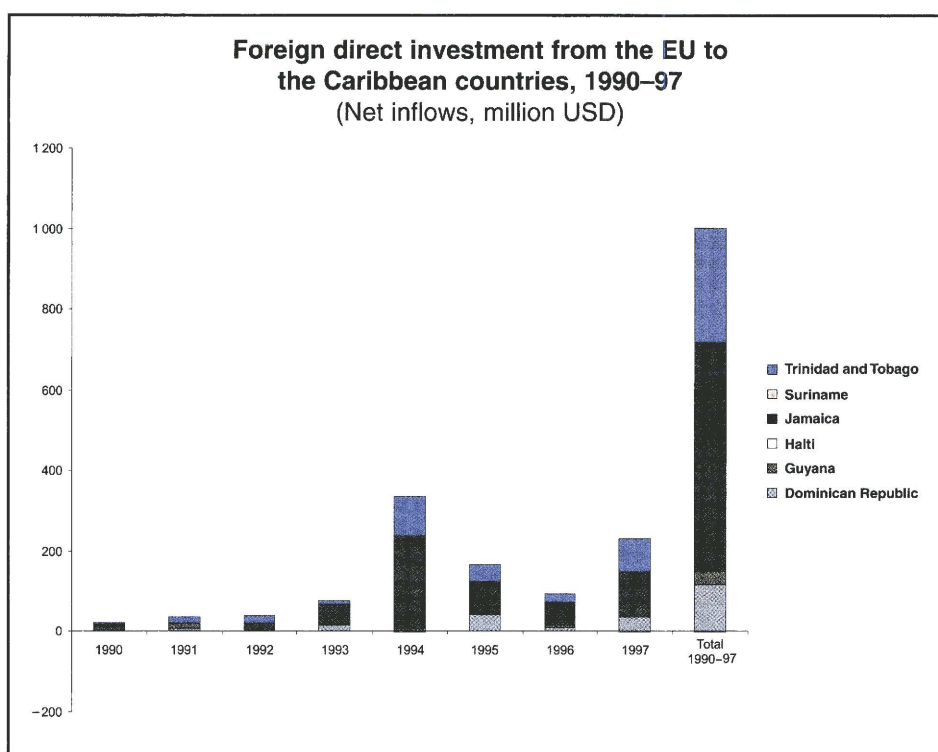
Political cooperation, which is very active in numerous fields, has already produced very tangible results in such areas as the fight against organised crime and illicit drug trafficking, good governance, support for the democratisation process and respect for human rights.

The Lomé framework has gradually extended over the region. Haiti and the Dominican Republic are the last countries to have joined the group of ACP countries (in December 1989, date of signature of the fourth Lomé Convention). Cuba, which did not sign the Convention, is nevertheless taking part as an observer in the negotiations on the future European Union–ACP Convention, which will come into force in February 2000. It is therefore not impossible that all of the Caribbean States will in future be linked with the European Union by a renewed convention, the innovative guidelines of which are already set forth in the negotiating brief approved by the Council. The Rio Summit will highlight the specific nature of the Caribbean issue in the context of the ACP States.

Like Latin America, and perhaps to an even greater extent, the Caribbean States appreciate the strengthening of contacts with Europe as it provides them with a source of diversification in their political relations and also in their commercial and economic relations. The European alternative can thus represent a viable counterweight to what is sometimes perceived as excessive economic and political dependence. The two entities, Latin America and the Caribbean, support each other in facing global challenges and act together *vis-à-vis* the United States in the hemispherical integration process ⁽¹³⁾.

Cuba is currently a special case in that it is the only Latin American country not to have signed a cooperation agreement with the European Union. Community policy on Cuba is the result of the common position which sets out the procedures for supporting a peaceful and democratic transition process. Within this framework, the European Union grants Cuba substantial aid in the humanitarian field via projects implemented by European NGOs. Similarly, the European Union supports initiatives encouraging the adoption of reforms in order to facilitate a peaceful transition towards more open economic and political systems.

⁽¹³⁾ The summit of the Americas, which regularly brings together the United States, Canada, and the Latin American and Caribbean countries, aims to create a broad free-trade area (FTAA).



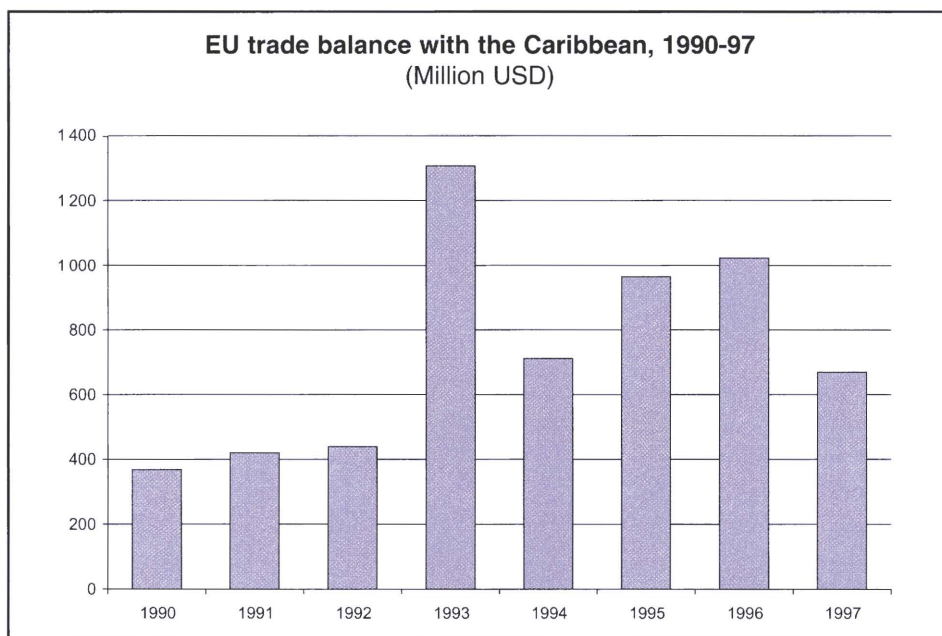
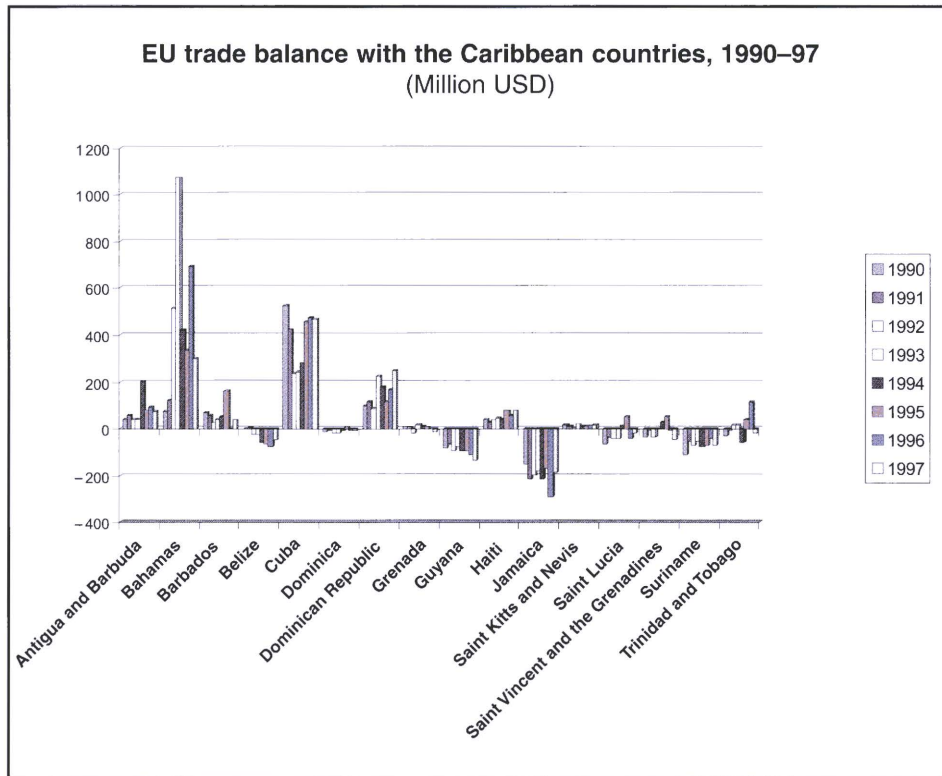
2.2. Economic and trade relations

The interest in Europe expressed by the Caribbean is all the greater as the vulnerable situation of these numerous, undiversified island economies creates a pressing need for the single market and the preferential conditions of access to it so far guaranteed by the Lomé Convention.

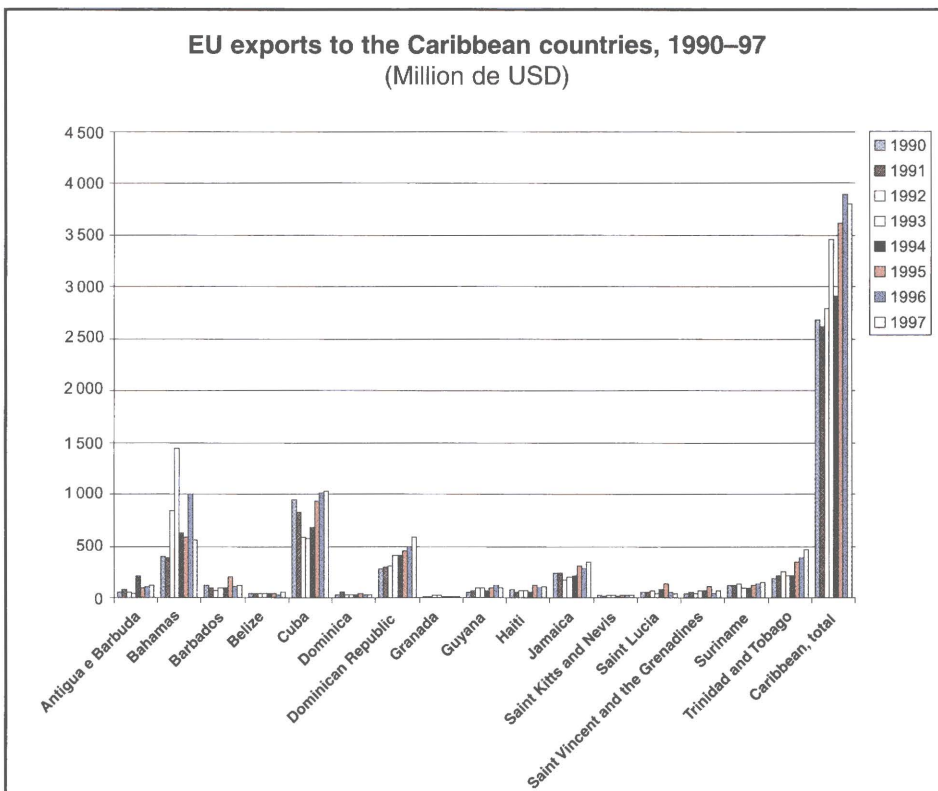
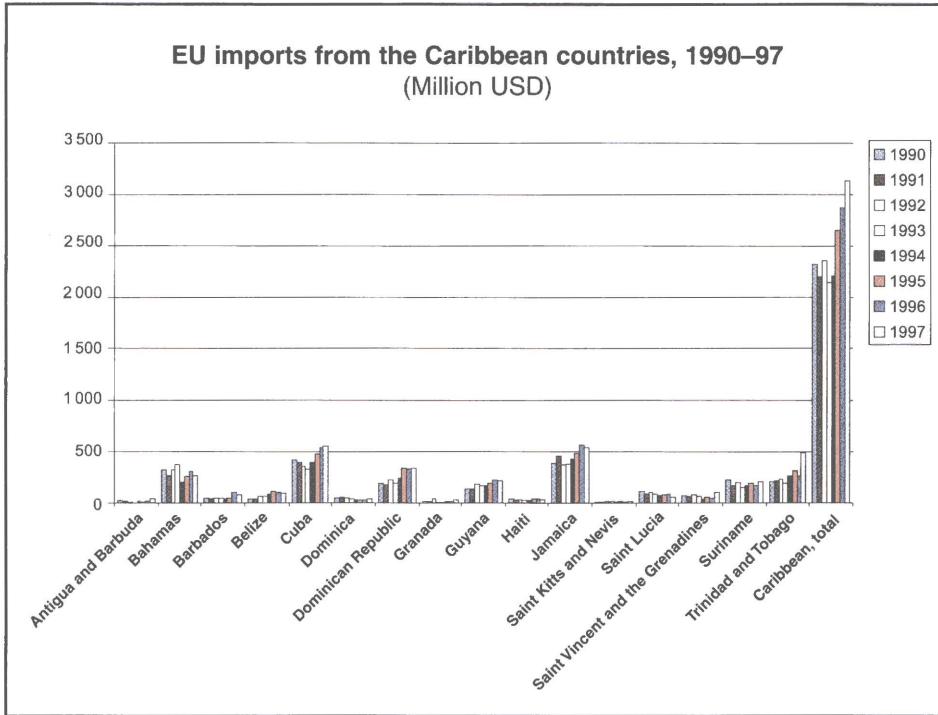
Although the region's average per capita income is quite high (GDP of USD 4 500 per capita), there is considerable disparity between the different countries (Haiti's GDP is USD 250 per capita). These island economies are fragile on the whole, often dependent on a very limited number of export products which are therefore sensitive to raw material prices, and are linked with preferential trade agreements.

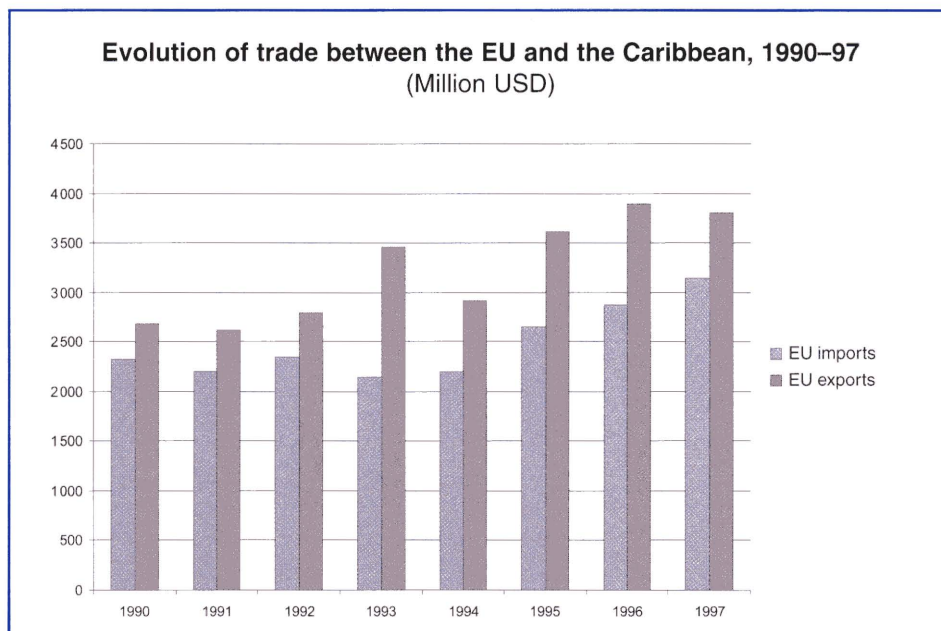
The countries of the Caribbean benefit from the numerous non-reciprocal trade preferences of the Lomé Convention, and for certain countries the sugar, banana and rum protocols have made for considerable export earnings. This commercial relationship should develop in the future towards another form of agreement reflecting to a greater extent the mutual interests of the two parties and adjusting trade arrangements to WTO rules. The European Union's mandate concerning post-Lomé negotiations with the ACP States therefore aims to create a genuine economic and commercial partnership by gradually introducing reciprocity into exchanges and by offering an overall strategy in trade-related fields.

In 1997, the European Union imported Caribbean products worth USD 3 137 million, and it exported products worth USD 3 806 million to this region. The European Union is the Caribbean's main export market, primarily for certain agricultural products (bananas, sugar, rice, etc.) and manufactured goods.



European exports mainly constitute manufactured goods, services and tourism. European economic interests are appreciable in such sectors as tourism, services and agricultural export goods.





2.3. Community cooperation with the Caribbean

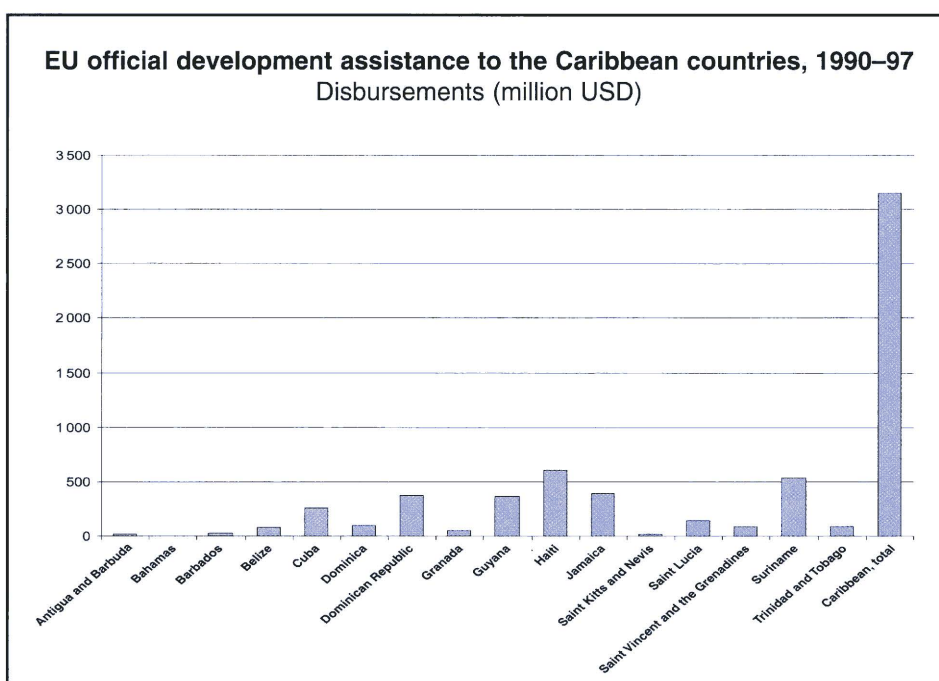
The European Union, together with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), is the principal donor to the Caribbean region.

At the level of financial and technical cooperation, assistance from the European Union to the ACP States and OCTs of the Caribbean in the first 20 years of cooperation (1976–95) amounted to ECU 1 785 million, broken down as follows:

	<i>Million ECU</i>
National programmes	722.2
EIB loans (including risk capital)	400.9
Stabex + Sysmin	112.6
Budget headings and other (structural adjustment, NGO, interest subsidies, food aid)	286.7
Regional programmes	262.8
Total	1 785.2

Source: DG VIII.

Under the financial assistance of the eighth EDF (European Development Fund, 1995–2000), national indicative programmes worth a total of ECU 511 350 000 were signed as well as a regional indicative programme of ECU 90 000 000; ECU 200 million is also made available under Stabex, Sysmin and the structural adjustment facility ⁽¹⁴⁾. Aid from the European Union focuses primarily on transport and communication infrastructures, trade and tourism, agriculture and rural development and the development of human resources and the environment, with the aim of promoting the economic and social development of the countries of the Caribbean, the fight against drugs, reform and modernisation of the State, and regional integration.



The lack of competitiveness and the small scale of many Caribbean economies make regional economic integration essential. This is a field in which the European Union has undeniable comparative advantages. In addition, the countries of the Caribbean have consolidated almost in their entirety political systems based on pluralist democracy and, in recent years, have introduced economic reforms that are having a significant impact on their growth. However, debate should continue on key issues to ensure the democratic life of these countries and transform economic growth into sustainable development.

⁽¹⁴⁾ Stabex: system for the stabilisation of export earnings from agricultural products under the Lomé Convention and extended to the least developed countries in Asia and Latin America, established by the European Union in 1984.
Sysmin: system for the stabilisation of ACP export earnings from mining products.

Statistical annex

1. EU trade balance with Latin American and Caribbean countries, 1990–97

(million USD)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Antigua and Barbuda	37	57	41	38	202	76	91	74
Argentina	-2 858	-3 532	-506	412	1 348	953	2 214	3 737
Bahamas	73	121	512	1 070	420	332	690	298
Barbados	70	58	24	41	51	158	0	36
Belize	0	4	-28	-27	-58	-67	-78	-50
Bolivia	-143	55	82	43	6	33	19	15
Brazil	-7 275	-6 764	-7 366	-4 189	-4 403	773	1 207	1 959
Chile	-1 650	-1 751	-1 230	-532	-558	-1 001	-305	85
Colombia	-926	-1 133	-673	-302	-280	-558	-226	-341
Costa Rica	-435	-459	-295	-295	-720	-509	-726	-623
Cuba	524	423	235	240	279	457	471	468
Dominica	-15	-10	-21	-17	-10	5	-8	-10
Dominican Republic	95	115	86	224	177	113	165	249
Ecuador	-39	-106	-135	-92	-322	-276	-426	-324
El Salvador	11	5	62	40	-45	-83	-77	-14
Grenada	7	7	-19	15	10	7	0	-13
Guatemala	24	47	71	108	4	-64	-8	-94
Guyana	-81	-67	-96	-75	-97	-96	-110	-134
Haiti	37	27	36	46	38	76	54	76
Honduras	-142	-145	-182	-83	-95	-182	-189	-232
Jamaica	-153	-214	-201	-182	-215	-170	-290	-188
Mexico	1 409	2 625	3 952	4 256	5 127	1 690	2 522	3 929
Nicaragua	-14	-24	-20	3	-5	-47	-42	-103
Panama	10	108	370	481	419	370	749	626
Paraguay	-315	-159	-44	-71	59	105	220	192
Peru	-591	-423	-460	-382	-320	-55	-74	-251
Saint Kitts and Nevis	16	8	5	19	8	11	13	16
Saint Lucia	-64	-37	-41	-42	13	50	-41	-18
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	-38	-10	-38	-1	28	49	-9	-46
Suriname	-110	-55	-73	-56	-77	-73	-40	-69
Trinidad and Tobago	-30	-7	18	16	-57	37	115	-20
Uruguay	-207	-135	-60	254	400	366	342	453
Venezuela	86	498	1 002	967	353	364	226	699
Latin America and the Caribbean, total	-12 687	-10 873	-4 992	1 927	1 680	2 844	6 449	10 382

Sources: IMF, *Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook*, Washington DC, various issues, and IRELA calculations.

2. EU exports to Latin American and Caribbean countries, 1990–97

(million USD)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Antigua and Barbuda	60	75	48	42	216	87	104	117
Argentina	1 668	2 250	3 780	4 211	5 856	6 009	7 360	8 204
Bahamas	398	388	836	1 438	624	592	995	565
Barbados	117	100	73	93	90	205	109	114
Belize	43	44	36	39	34	44	28	49
Bolivia	185	173	218	171	187	250	252	241
Brazil	5 077	5 294	5 043	6 586	8 844	14 956	14 675	16 644
Chile	1 750	1 556	2 027	2 167	2 410	3 157	3 460	3 886
Colombia	1 129	1 168	1 582	1 681	2 225	2 412	2 517	2 695
Costa Rica	222	228	320	362	343	454	395	443
Cuba	946	822	594	569	678	932	1 009	1 025
Dominica	31	48	30	27	24	36	26	29
Dominican Republic	286	294	313	415	418	449	494	586
Ecuador	427	614	653	593	630	819	680	819
El Salvador	171	174	168	179	266	284	268	394
Granada	20	20	21	24	18	20	20	19
Guatemala	234	250	320	359	340	400	412	423
Guyana	58	70	88	97	69	95	114	88
Haiti	80	60	67	69	59	118	92	112
Honduras	123	102	116	186	176	229	192	168
Jamaica	234	246	169	195	213	313	278	352
Mexico	5 284	6 401	7 751	7 190	8 274	5 749	6 389	8 284
Nicaragua	98	112	108	69	84	103	113	63
Panama	741	743	934	886	835	1 153	1 614	1 197
Paraguay	229	204	193	216	307	402	408	410
Peru	481	615	538	551	864	1 305	1 271	1 262
Saint Kitts and Nevis	25	20	22	33	18	25	24	32
Saint Lucia	47	54	68	45	82	129	47	41
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	38	53	40	63	72	103	42	61
Suriname	120	115	128	99	90	117	130	142
Trinidad and Tobago	184	208	256	207	210	349	381	474
Uruguay	305	359	452	758	924	854	873	1 003
Venezuela	2 300	2 386	2 914	2 484	1 956	2 441	2 205	2 657
Latin America and the Caribbean, total	23 111	25 246	29 906	32 104	37 436	44 591	46 977	52 599

Sources: IMF, *Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook*, Washington DC, various issues, and IRELA calculations.

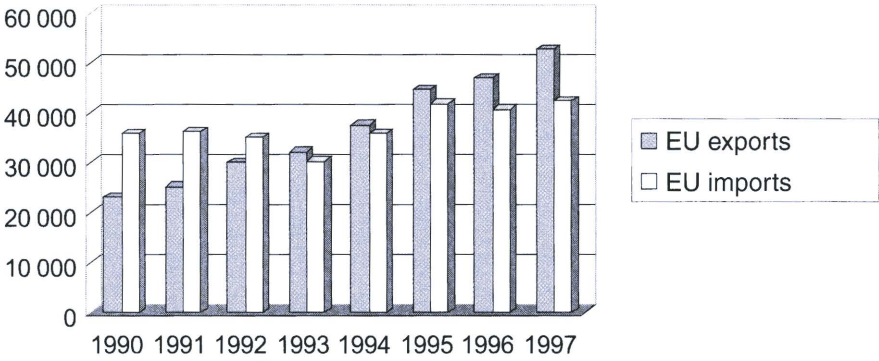
3. EU imports from Latin American and Caribbean countries, 1990–97

(million USD)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Antigua and Barbuda	23	18	7	4	14	11	13	43
Argentina	4 526	5 782	4 286	3 799	4 508	5 056	5 146	4 467
Bahamas	325	267	324	368	204	260	305	267
Barbados	47	42	49	52	39	47	109	78
Belize	43	40	64	66	92	111	106	99
Bolivia	328	118	136	128	181	217	233	226
Brazil	12 352	12 058	12 409	10 775	13 247	14 183	13 468	14 685
Chile	3 400	3 307	3 257	2 699	2 968	4 158	3 765	3 801
Colombia	2 055	2 301	2 255	1 983	2 505	2 970	2 743	3 036
Costa Rica	657	687	615	657	1 063	963	1 121	1 066
Cuba	422	399	359	329	399	475	538	557
Dominica	46	58	51	44	34	31	34	39
Dominican Republic	191	179	227	191	241	336	329	337
Ecuador	466	720	788	685	952	1 095	1 106	1 143
El Salvador	160	169	106	139	311	367	345	408
Granada	13	13	40	9	8	13	20	32
Guatemala	210	203	249	251	336	464	420	517
Guyana	139	137	184	172	166	191	224	222
Haiti	43	33	31	23	21	42	38	36
Honduras	265	247	298	269	271	411	381	400
Jamaica	387	460	370	377	428	483	568	540
Mexico	3 875	3 776	3 799	2 934	3 147	4 059	3 867	4 355
Nicaragua	112	136	128	66	89	150	155	166
Panama	731	635	564	405	416	783	865	571
Paraguay	544	363	237	287	248	297	188	218
Peru	1 072	1 038	998	933	1 184	1 360	1 345	1 513
Saint Kitts and Nevis	9	12	17	14	10	14	11	16
Saint Lucia	111	91	109	87	69	79	88	59
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	76	63	78	64	44	54	51	107
Suriname	230	170	201	155	167	190	170	211
Trinidad and Tobago	214	215	238	191	267	312	266	494
Uruguay	512	494	512	504	524	488	531	550
Venezuela	2 214	1 888	1 912	1 517	1 603	2 077	1 979	1 958
Latin America and the Caribbean, total	35 798	36 119	34 898	30 177	35 756	41 747	40 528	42 217

Sources: IMF, *Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook*, Washington DC, various issues, and IRELA calculations.

**Evolution of trade between the EU and Latin America
and the Caribbean, 1990-97**
(Million USD)



4. EU Member States trade balance with Latin America and the Caribbean, 1990–97

(million USD)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Austria	-217	-203	-108	-35	-74	66	196	281
Belgium/Luxembourg	-1 029	-832	-686	-376	-490	31	-653	-674
Denmark	-331	-3	190	78	134	219	6	-42
Finland	-91	14	-186	-37	-119	569	54	5
France	-1 651	-925	99	791	751	240	925	1 365
Germany	-1 984	-1 719	-499	1 467	1 453	1 978	3 089	4 147
Greece	-271	-366	-207	-120	-96	-294	-407	-289
Ireland	34	40	119	189	191	213	216	295
Italy	-1 303	-610	260	2 138	2 601	2 597	4 695	4 996
Netherlands	-2 249	-1 684	-851	-1 077	-2 567	-2 269	-2 378	-1 955
Portugal	-809	-842	-820	-703	-569	-673	-563	-643
Spain	-1 926	-2 994	-1 415	57	417	99	1 184	1 424
Sweden	103	140	353	270	354	728	1 012	1 398
United Kingdom	-975	-857	-1 254	-717	-296	-657	-932	72
EU total	-12 699	-10 841	-5 005	1 925	1 690	2 847	6 444	10 380

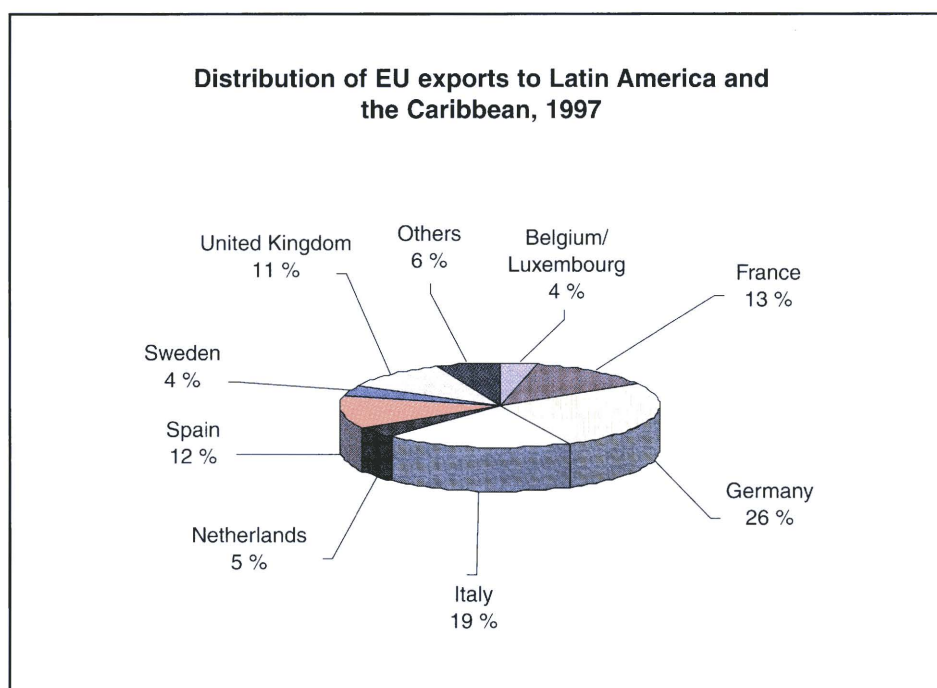
Sources: IMF, *Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook*, Washington DC, various issues, and IRELA calculations.

5. EU Member States exports to Latin America and the Caribbean, 1990–97

(million USD)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Austria	282	316	388	376	462	581	650	768
Belgium/Luxembourg	850	955	1 056	1 035	1 348	2 160	1 700	2 044
Denmark	335	599	834	720	801	910	777	810
Finland	382	424	359	350	466	1 026	617	660
France	3 064	3 655	4 652	4 588	5 297	5 540	5 829	6 653
Germany	7 361	7 749	8 896	8 961	10 186	12 439	12 339	13 745
Greece	75	106	105	172	197	170	148	135
Ireland	245	225	325	348	364	443	513	557
Italy	3 239	3 854	4 749	5 613	6 782	7 834	9 611	10 021
Netherlands	1 175	1 267	1 568	2 018	1 849	2 404	2 235	2 432
Portugal	99	88	99	122	238	382	381	438
Spain	2 075	2 210	2 902	3 696	4 407	4 963	5 950	6 504
Sweden	1 066	965	1 060	972	1 244	1 530	1 765	2 181
United Kingdom	2 842	2 834	2 901	3 121	3 796	4 192	4 445	5 644
EU total	23 090	25 247	29 894	32 092	37 437	44 574	46 960	52 592

Sources: IMF, *Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook*, Washington DC, various issues, and IRELA calculations.

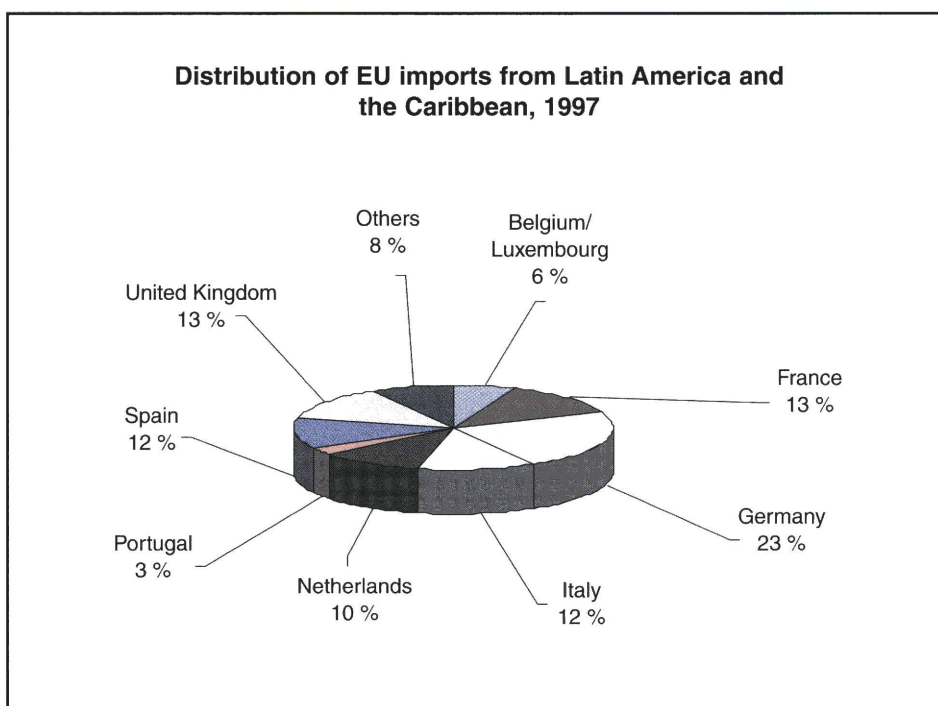


6. EU Member States imports from Latin America and the Caribbean, 1990–97

(million USD)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Austria	499	519	496	411	536	515	454	487
Belgium/Luxembourg	1 879	1 787	1 742	1 411	1 838	2 129	2 353	2 718
Denmark	666	602	644	642	667	691	771	852
Finland	473	410	545	387	585	457	563	655
France	4 715	4 580	4 553	3 797	4 546	5 300	4 904	5 288
Germany	9 345	9 468	9 395	7 494	8 733	10 461	9 250	9 598
Greece	346	472	312	292	293	464	555	424
Ireland	211	185	206	159	173	230	297	262
Italy	4 542	4 464	4 489	3 475	4 181	5 237	4 916	5 025
Netherlands	3 424	2 951	2 419	3 095	4 416	4 673	4 613	4 387
Portugal	908	930	919	825	807	1 055	944	1 081
Spain	4 001	5 204	4 317	3 639	3 990	4 864	4 766	5 080
Sweden	963	825	707	702	890	802	753	783
United Kingdom	3 817	3 691	4 155	3 838	4 092	4 849	5 377	5 572
EU total	35 789	36 088	34 899	30 167	35 747	41 727	40 516	42 212

Sources: IMF, *Direction of Trade Statistics Yearbook*, Washington DC, various issues, and IRELA calculations.

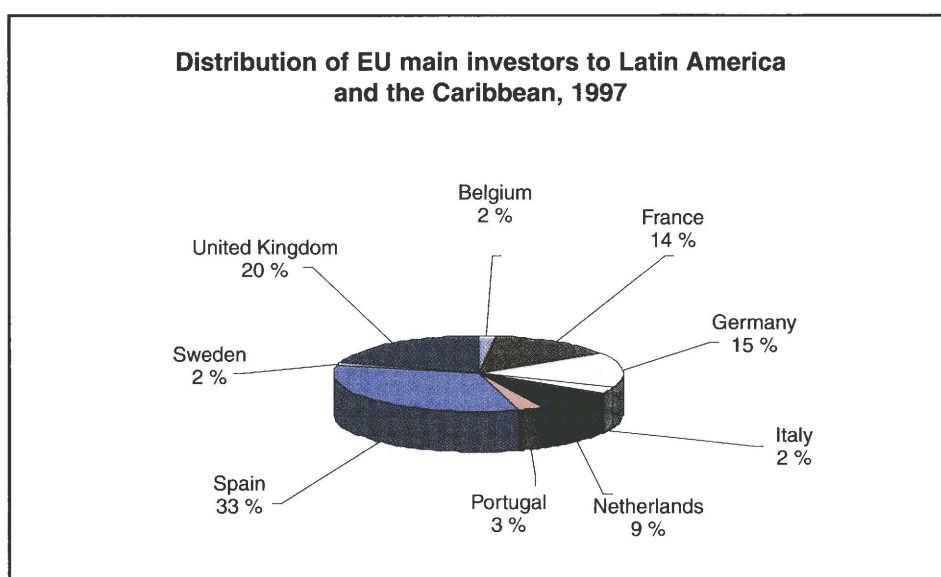


7. Foreign direct investment by main investor countries to Latin America and the Caribbean ⁽¹⁾, 1990–97

(net inflows, million USD)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	Total 1990–97
Austria	—	—	5	3	20	20	7	—	55
Belgium	59	36	71	–91	–61	178	579	338	1 109
Denmark	15	2	—	25	3	43	49	—	137
Finland	27	37	34	15	17	52	25	8	215
France	283	–12	146	332	101	59	2 057	2 439	5 405
Germany	322	549	256	36	873	1 898	–98	2 579	6 415
Italy	56	123	–48	–13	–2	111	183	398	808
Netherlands	258	194	653	481	1 056	1 102	1 047	1 638	6 429
Portugal	7	1	2	–1	3	34	308	490	844
Spain	155	236	185	93	2 072	1 037	1 577	5 653	11 008
Sweden	38	–6	20	37	16	14	144	286	549
United Kingdom	493	69	542	222	1 365	1 645	1 965	3 431	9 732
EU ⁽²⁾	1 711	1 228	1 865	1 139	5 462	6 192	7 842	17 261	42 700
United States	3 217	4 970	5 444	8 525	11 831	15 283	9 918	17 814	77 002
Japan	399	561	270	132	568	492	780	1 091	4 293
EU, United States, Japan	5 327	6 759	7 579	9 796	17 861	21 967	18 540	36 166	123 995

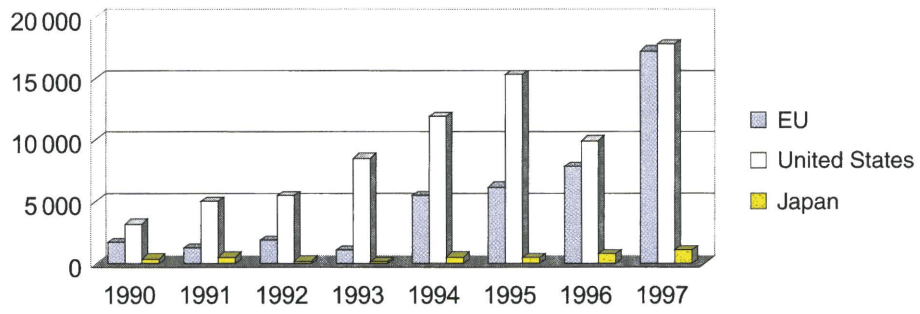
Sources: IDB-IRELA, *Foreign direct investment in Latin America: Perspectives of the major investors*, Madrid, 1998; Inter-American Development Bank, *Foreign direct investment in Latin America: Perspectives of the major investors — An update*, Paris, 1999, and IRELA calculations.



⁽¹⁾ Excludes Panama, which is considered an offshore centre.

⁽²⁾ EU excludes Greece and Ireland.

**Main investors to Latin America and the Caribbean,
1990-97**
(Million USD)

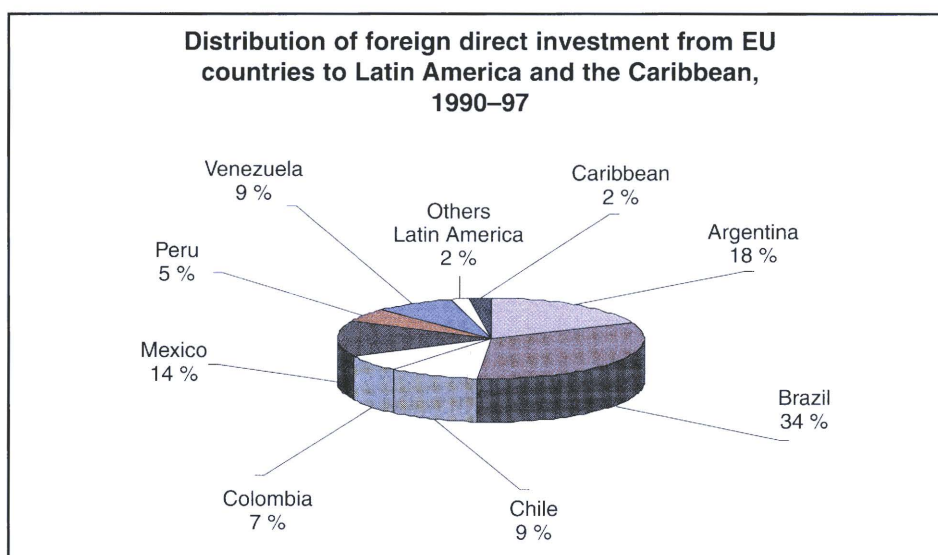


8. Foreign direct investment from EU countries to Latin America and the Caribbean ⁽¹⁾, 1990–97

(net inflows, million USD)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	Total 1990–97
Argentina	274	333	419	358	868	1 630	1 395	2 622	7 899
Bolivia	0	0	4	2	3	11	48	25	93
Brazil	603	519	676	313	1 372	1 648	3 639	5 261	14 031
Chile	125	199	69	185	379	646	407	2 026	4 036
Colombia	100	-436	85	-145	311	502	611	1 828	2 856
Costa Rica	1	7	17	7	11	5	24	11	83
Dominican Republic	3	6	3	16	1	43	10	36	118
Ecuador	-40	8	18	-3	49	66	31	18	147
El Salvador	0	2	0	1	0	24	0	6	33
Guatemala	-1	-1	3	0	1	2	7	39	50
Guyana	8	13	0	2	5	0	6	-2	32
Haiti	0	0	0	—	-1	0	0	0	-1
Honduras	4	0	0	-1	0	1	6	5	15
Jamaica	8	3	19	46	233	83	59	115	566
Mexico	490	252	407	161	390	968	676	2 795	6 139
Nicaragua	1	0	1	4	0	2	2	0	10
Paraguay	4	-5	10	3	13	18	1	12	56
Peru	19	4	-46	90	1 569	180	297	124	2 237
Suriname	1	—	0	3	0	0	0	—	4
Trinidad and Tobago	3	14	16	11	97	41	19	80	281
Uruguay	46	25	29	-24	72	36	76	21	281
Venezuela	63	286	134	111	91	286	529	2 238	3 738
Latin America and the Caribbean ⁽²⁾	1 712	1 229	1 864	1 140	5 464	6 192	7 843	17 260	42 704

Sources: IDB-IRELA, *Foreign direct investment in Latin America: Perspectives of the major investors*, Madrid, 1998; Inter-American Development Bank, *Foreign direct investment in Latin America: Perspectives of the major investors — An update*, Paris, 1999, and IRELA calculations.



⁽¹⁾ EU excludes Greece and Ireland.

⁽²⁾ Excludes Panama, which is considered an offshore centre.

9. EU official development assistance to Latin American and Caribbean countries, 1990–97

(net disbursements, million USD)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	Total 1990–97
Argentina	149	244	242	212	129	94	83	46	1 200
Antigua and Barbuda	3	5	2	2	4	1	2	2	21
Bahamas	1	1	1	0	0	2	-2	2	4
Barbados	2	3	2	6	3	1	6	6	30
Belize	8	8	11	13	21	8	7	6	82
Bolivia	184	212	289	276	207	330	396	231	2 124
Brazil	89	125	41	146	132	129	155	140	957
Chile	102	112	128	137	138	136	138	81	971
Colombia	89	109	177	88	84	109	121	118	893
Costa Rica	63	55	59	57	56	51	49	34	423
Cuba	33	18	11	26	35	47	44	46	260
Dominica	7	8	9	7	12	15	36	8	102
Dominican Republic	39	39	51	55	34	53	47	56	374
Ecuador	78	139	150	124	115	110	146	101	963
El Salvador	60	60	84	93	87	99	106	84	673
Granada	5	8	7	4	16	6	3	3	52
Guatemala	62	70	55	76	64	90	108	132	659
Guyana	62	31	10	23	21	20	26	171	364
Haiti	61	62	40	34	40	180	111	82	609
Honduras	82	75	58	89	85	113	64	83	648
Jamaica	61	35	34	25	56	56	48	74	389
Mexico	99	195	232	301	222	78	40	44	1 209
Nicaragua	160	225	269	183	287	388	659	170	2 341
Panama	-4	6	9	11	10	19	19	17	86
Paraguay	20	76	16	18	14	36	20	40	240
Peru	218	169	180	287	173	180	174	198	1 580
Saint Kitts and Nevis	2	4	3	1	4	1	2	2	19
Saint Lucia	5	11	13	9	17	36	30	18	140
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	5	5	6	6	2	41	19	1	85
Suriname	59	38	67	71	53	70	105	73	536
Trinidad and Tobago	11	-6	3	-2	16	20	12	30	86
Uruguay	37	36	55	81	57	52	26	18	361
Venezuela	73	20	22	27	16	34	24	-5	210
Latin America and the Caribbean	1 926	2 197	2 335	2 487	2 208	2 601	2 824	2 112	18 691

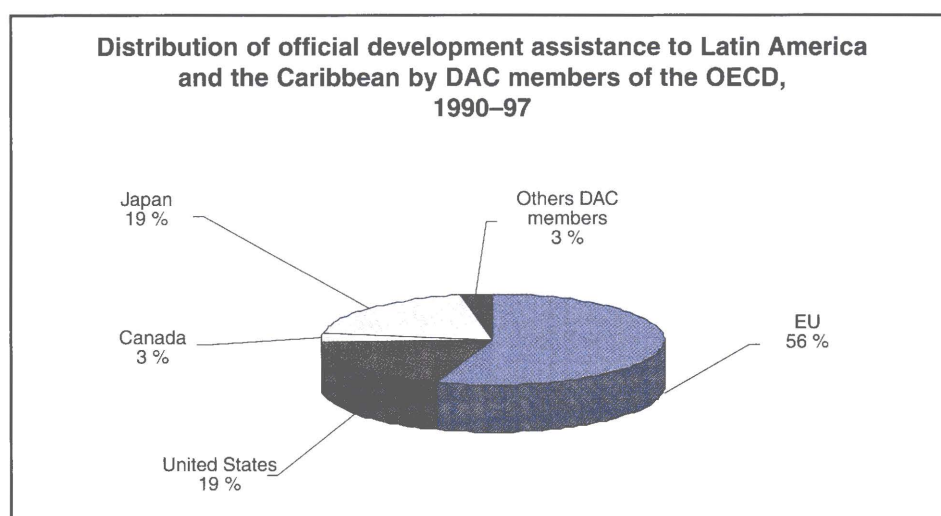
Sources: OECD, Paris, 1999, and IRELA calculations.

10. Official development assistance by donor entity to Latin America and the Caribbean, 1990–97

(net disbursements, million USD)

	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	Total 1990–97
Austria	12	26	13	31	30	33	29	21	195
Belgium	40	37	66	53	47	102	98	56	499
Denmark	23	32	35	38	33	42	66	62	331
Finland	24	37	22	18	7	12	7	9	137
France	202	306	190	280	202	258	237	170	1 845
Germany	510	481	537	555	433	583	827	446	4 371
Ireland	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	3	11
Italy	345	426	339	280	263	79	105	34	1 870
Luxembourg	2	3	4	6	8	7	9	10	50
Netherlands	264	164	269	274	250	341	343	298	2 203
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
Spain	140	255	382	460	356	337	343	221	2 494
Sweden	63	118	117	98	104	113	115	92	819
United Kingdom	69	78	74	72	81	114	74	221	783
European Commission	231	233	287	322	393	578	568	469	3 083
EU total	1 926	2 197	2 335	2 487	2 208	2 601	2 824	2 112	18 691
United States	1 167	1 240	659	678	1 043	781	355	541	6 464
Canada	152	147	156	136	116	103	112	119	1 041
Japan	558	844	768	734	827	1 133	981	704	6 549
Other DAC members	114	137	131	93	135	144	149	116	1 020
DAC countries, total	3 686	4 332	3 762	3 806	3 936	4 184	3 855	3 123	30 684
Multilateral	726	677	780	851	1 039	1 333	1 697	1 675	8 776
All donors, total	4 642	5 242	4 829	4 979	5 368	6 095	6 120	5 268	42 543

Sources: OECD, Paris, 1999, and IRELA calculations.



European Commission

European Union — Latin America — Caribbean — Advancing together

Luxembourg: Office for Official Publications of the European Communities

1999 — 38 pp. — 21 x 29.7 cm

ISBN 92-828-7014-6

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